

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 8, 2003 (Paper No. 4). Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10 to 15 and 21 to 23 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Objections were lodged against the specification, drawings and Claims 1, 16 and 17, all for formal reasons. These matters have been attended to, and in particular, a revised Figure 3 is submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Claim 15 has been amended to attend to the matters noted in its rejection, and Claims 16 to 20 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 and 8 to 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,572,604 (Simard); Claims 6, 7 and 13 to 20 were rejected under § 103 over Simard or over Simard in view of U.S. Patent 5,729,637 (Nicholson); and Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,137,905 (Takaoka). In response, the independent claims herein have been amended so as to include the substance of dependent Claim 2, which emphasizes the inventive nature of a selection from among plural sets of initial conditions for recognition-processing. Accordingly, this should be

viewed as a traversal of the rejection of Claim 2 (and others like it), for at least the reasons explained more fully below.

The invention concerns recognition-processing of at least one object in a digitized representation of an image. A reduced-resolution version of the image is created, and the reduced-resolution version serves as the basis for selection of a set of initial conditions for recognizing objects in the original, digitized representation of the image. Specifically, a plurality of sets of initial conditions are provided, the initial conditions including at least one condition for recognition-processing of the image. For each of the sets of initial conditions, a confidence level is identified for recognition-processing of the reduced-resolution version of the image. At least one set is selected from the plurality of sets of initial conditions, based on each confidence level. Thereafter, objects in the digitized representation of the image (i.e., the image at the first resolution) are recognized based on the set of initial conditions selected.

On the other hand, Simard describes filtering of prototype patterns which are filtered turn-by-turn in correspondence to a plurality of distance functions. Thus, in Simard, initial conditions are related to prototype patterns for each distance function, and not to recognition-processing.

Takaoka describes an arrangement, in Figures 24 and 25 thereof, where recognition is performed in each of plural recognition units, and the most reliable result from recognition is selected. However, Takaoka discloses nothing concerning the selection of an initial condition.

Nicholson has been reviewed, but it is not seen to add anything to the above-noted deficiencies of Simard and Takaoka.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor would have been obvious from any permissible combination of Simard, Nicholson or Takaoka.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein are fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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